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PATENT  
740756-002027  
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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 175

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re PATENT application of:

Shunpei YAMAZAKI et al.

Application No.: 09/396,381

Filed: September 15, 1999

For: APPARATUS FOR FABRICATING)  
COATING AND METHOD OF )  
FABRICATING THE COATING )

) Art Unit: 175

) Examiner: Martin ANGEBRANDT

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on \_\_\_\_\_.

AMENDMENT

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

May 7, 2001  
(Monday)

Dear Sir:

In response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed December 6, 2000, the period for responding having been extended two (2) months, please consider the following amendments and remarks in connection with the above-identified application.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 123 as follows:

SUB  
E16  
123. (Amended) A method of operating a compact disk comprising the steps of:  
introducing an optical disk having a surface protected by a protective film  
comprising a hard-carbon coating having a thickness of 500Å or less;  
irradiating a visible light onto said optical disk through said hard-carbon  
coating;  
wherein the number of pin-holes in said hard-carbon coating is 30/mm<sup>2</sup> or  
less.